

REMARKS

This Amendment is responsive to the Office Action mailed November 13, 2006. Applicants respectfully request consideration of the remarks submitted herewith.

Amendments to the Claims

Claims 1, 3-10, 12-18 and 20-27 have been canceled. Claims 2, 11 and 19 have been amended as follows: Claim 2 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of R¹ formerly recited in claim 8, and the limitations of R² and R⁵ formerly recited in claim 1. Claims 11 and 19 have been amended to depend from claim 2.

35 U.S.C. §102

Claims 1, 2, 5-7, 9, 16-19 and 23 stand rejected as allegedly anticipated by various references. Claims 1, 5-7, 9, 16-18 have been canceled, obviating the rejection of those claims.

Claim 2 has been amended to incorporate the limitations of R¹ formerly recited in claim 8, which claim the Examiner indicated was allowable but for its depending from rejected claim 1. To place claim 2 in independent form it has further been amended to incorporate the limitations of R² and R⁵ formerly recited in claim 1. Claim 2 now contains the limitations of allowable claim 8 and does not depend from a rejected claim. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the rejection of claim 2.

Claim 11 is objected to as depending from claim 10, which is rejected as anticipated. Claim 11 has now been amended to depend from claim 2. Because claim 2 is now in an allowable form (as discussed above), it is submitted that claim 11 is likewise allowable. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claim 11.

Claim 19 is rejected as allegedly anticipated. Claim 19 has now been amended to depend from claim 2. Because claim 2 is now in an allowable form (as discussed above), it is submitted that claim 19 is likewise allowable. Applicants therefore respectfully request reconsideration and withdrawal of the objection to claim 19.

35 U.S.C. §112, Second Paragraph

Claim 22 is rejected as allegedly being indefinite. Claim 22 has been canceled, obviating this rejection.

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Attorney for Applicants can be reached at the telephone number and address below. Correspondence should continue to be sent to the address below. Any additional fees or deficiency in fees required should be taken from Merck Deposit Account No. **13-2755**.

Respectfully submitted,

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